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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/921,601	08/06/2001	Mitsuhiro Nagase	427-45	9635

23117 7590 06/04/2004  
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EXAMINER

HAILU, TADESSE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

DATE MAILED: 06/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/921,601

Applicant(s)

NAGASE, MITSUHIRO

Examiner

Tadesse Hailu

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2, 4, 5</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to the patent application (09/921,601) filed on August 6, 2001.

#### Priority

2. The present patent application claims priority from Foreign Application Number P2000-241623 filed 9/8/2000.

#### Information Disclosure Statement

3. The submitted Information Disclosure Statements with references are considered and entered into the file.

#### Status of the claims

4. The pending claims 1-4 are examined as follows.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yano Hiroshi (JP410020769A).

#### With regard to claim 1:

Yano discloses an information input/output device (Fig. 1, #11, or Fig. 2, #11) for visually impaired persons.

The input/output device includes, among other things, a tactile-sense display 13 (braille output unit) (Fig. 1, #13) having a plurality of projectable dotted portions (Fig. 1,

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#12) and enabling output of a plurality of braille patterns by controlling the projection of said dotted portions (see Fig. 1, also see paragraphs [0019] through [0023]).

The input/output device includes an input means, the dot pin of the tactile-sense display 13, having a push part which is operated by a pushing operation fingertip 16 (see Fig. 1, also see paragraphs [0019] through [0023]).

The input/output device also includes a control unit (Fig. 2, #21) (a recognition means) recognizing the user input via fingertip 16 by pushing dot portion 12 within a setup time (predetermined period of time) also see paragraphs [0019], [0026] through [0027]).

Yano further discloses that based on detecting the fingertip 16, Braille points are generated or outputted in the location where the fingertip touched, that is, said push part 12 of said tactile-sense display 13 includes said braille output unit (see paragraph [0013] and [0031]).

With regard to claim 2:

Yano further that said tactile-sense display 13 (braille output unit) enables output of braille patterns at a plurality of positions along a transverse direction (see Figs. 1, 4, 5 or 7), which is perpendicular to a direction of projection of said dotted portions (see Figs. 1, 4, 5 or 7, also see paragraph [0029]). For example as illustrated in Fig. 1, each push portion 12 of tactile-sense display 13 is pushed downward (perpendicular to X-axis) for an input.

Yano also disclose said tactile-sense display 13 (braille output unit) comprises a control means 21 of braille pattern (see Fig. 1) with controls the projection of said

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dotted portions **12** in accordance with the output braille pattern (see paragraph [0023] and [0029]), and further controls the projection of said dotted portions **12** so as to move a braille pattern output by said dotted portions along the transverse direction (see arrangement of the dot portion **12**) while maintaining an arrangement of said braille pattern (see paragraph [0023] and [0029]).

With regard to claims 3 and 4:

Again, Yano disclose that based on detecting the fingertip **16**, Braille points are generated or outputted in the location where the fingertip touched, that is, said push portion **12** of said tactile-sense display **13** includes said braille output unit (see paragraph [0013] and [0031]).

**Conclusion**

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Tadesse Hailu, whose telephone number is (703) 306-2799. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 10:00 - 6:30 ET. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca, can be reached at (703) 308-3116 Art Unit 2173 CPK 2-4A51.

7. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Tadesse Hailu

June 2, 2004

